



Assessments

Assessment Information for 2010

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) mandated from the state this year is -.03% following the guidelines of **Proposal A passed in 1994.**

Your taxable value for 2010 is calculated by multiplying last year's taxable value by .997. However, many assessments were reduced due to the declining market for 2010.



If that calculation exceeds your 2010 assessment the taxable value becomes equal to the assessed value. Taxable value is the basis for your property taxes.

Properties that have been uncapped as a result of a sale may see a higher increase in taxable value as well as properties for which there is new construction.

Your change notice is included with this mailing. Please review your change notice when you receive it and if you have questions or concerns please contact the Township office. Remember, it is taxable value that is used to compute tax bills.

Principal Residence Exemptions

The Principle Residence Exemption (PRE) is indicated on your assessment change notice. You should check your notice at the center bottom for the number that can range from 0 to 100%. To receive 100% exemption from

the school operating millage you must own and occupy your residence. All homeowners for newly constructed homes must file an exemption form with their local govern-

ment and occupy the home by May 1st to receive the exemption. The forms are available at the Township office.

If you believe yours is incorrect, please contact the office immediately.

Inside this issue:

Police Protection Update	2
Recycling	2
Census	2
Property Tax Information	2
Art Tour	3
New Building Inspector	3
Branch School	3
Grant Awards!	3
Who Does What	4

Special points of interest:

- *March 14th-Day light savings time*
- *April 2nd- Closed for Good Friday*
- *May 8th & 9th- Studio & Art Tour (see article page 3)*
- *May 15th- Recycling (note change)*
- *May 31st- Memorial Day*

Police Protection Update

Recycling

****IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE****

May 15th is the NEW date for recycling in May due to the Art Tour!

Items collected are:

Magazines and Catalogs

#1 Clear Plastic Bottles

#2 Milk Jugs

#2 Colored Plastic Bottles

Clear Glass Bottles & Jars

Tin Cans & Aluminum

Newspaper (bundled or bagged)

White office Paper (boxed or bagged)

Corrugated Cardboard & Boxboard

As of the date of this newsletter, the County Commissioners have left some funding in the Ingham County Sheriff's Department budget for coverage of the rural Townships. This funding is anticipated to cease by the next budget year which will begin January 2011.

For two years we have fought to convince the County Commissioners that funding police protection for all is a basic level of service we believe our County Taxes should be used for. Although we will continue this fight, back-up measures must be prepared.

The thirteen rural townships continue to work together on a plan that will ensure police protection for all of the residents. We are researching a variety of options from individual contracts to the formation of a Police Authority with the other thirteen townships. While signing a contract just for Williamstown Township would provide exclusive coverage, it may prove too costly. Forming an authority would allow all of us to work together with a larger pot of funds for services. Please contact me with any thoughts, concerns or questions you may have.

Mickey Martin, Supervisor

Census (Important - please read)

It's census time -and you matter! You may not be aware of the importance of the census as a resident of Williamstown Township. Census information affects the numbers of seats our state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives, deciding how more than \$400 billion per year is allocated for projects like new hospitals and schools, more

than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period for things like new roads and bridges. A major affect for Townships is Revenue sharing from the State which helps fund needed infrastructure improvements and maintenance. The Township receives funds for every person in the Township. If our count is not correct it could cost

the Township several thousand dollars in missed revenues. It is, in essence, our community's voice in government! Look for census information coming in the near future. It's important and mandatory! Please contact the Township office if you have any questions or need help complying.

Participation isn't just important-it's mandatory.

Property Tax Information

- \$ Tuesday, March 2nd: Last day to pay your property taxes before they are turned over to the County.
- \$ The options provided for making your payments include:
 - \$ At the Township Hall during business hours
 - \$ Place them in the drop box by the front door
 - \$ By Mail (*postmarks are NOT accepted as payment date*)

Remember to check the box on your tax bill if you would like a receipt and one will be mailed to you.



Art Tour Scheduled

The Williamstown Township Fine Art Sale and Studio Tour is scheduled for Friday, May 7 and Saturday, May 8, 2010. The sale will be 6:30PM – 9:00 PM on Friday evening, May 7 and 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 8 in conjunction with the City's Art Walk being held on Friday and Saturday.

Eight Williamstown Township artists will be opening their studios for this event, two of whom will have a "guest artist", while the Township Hall and Branch School will house another six

Township artists.

Our Township has many fine artists and we hope that the Art Sale and Studio Tour will bring an awareness to the public of the talent and skill within our community.

Artist participating include Mark Chatterly, Margabeth Cibulka, Marj Clay, Elahe Crockett, Gretchen Fielek, Mark Mehaffey, Stephanie Moy, Sheri Munce, Paul Nilsson, and Sally Martin Stewart. Ron Cook, Cindy Evans, Ernie Gaffner, and Jeannie West will be at the Williamstown Township Hall. At

the newly restored Branch School you will find Erin Doyle Groom and Liz Wylegala.

All artwork at the various sites will be for sale, and a portion of each sale will be donated to the Township for playground equipment.

Advance tickets will be available for purchase April 1 at the Township Hall, Burgdorf's Winery at 5635 Shoeman Rd. and from participating artists. Tickets will be \$5.00 and may also be purchased on the day of the Art Sale and Studio Tour.

New Building Inspector/Code Enforcer

The Township is pleased to welcome Rob Kehoe as our new building inspector and code enforcer. Rob brings a wealth of knowledge to the Township and is excited to be of service to our residents. Rob has over 12 years experience as an inspector and builder. He has been busy getting acclimated to the Township and our Ordinance. For those spring projects such as roofs, sheds, etc., you will want to apply for your permit at least a week ahead of time before you commence work. If you have any questions please contact the Township at 655-3193. Rob's extension is 311.

Branch School

Working inside on days when the outside temperature is above 20°, the restoration of the Branch Rd. School has been moving along and is estimated to be 90 percent complete. The Historical Committee has a goal of having the school ready for its first event when it will host several artists for the township's Studio and Art Tour this May. Sometime this month you will notice the return of a belfry and bell to the roof of

the school. Summer will allow the team of volunteers to finish the exterior work in preparation for a September celebration commemorating the completion of renovations. They are always looking for donations of items appropriate to the Branch School. If you know of or have something that may be of interest, please call Tom Johnson at 655-1030.

The Historical Committee is also planning their second Old House meeting in May featuring a topic of interest to owners of old homes with tours of two restored homes in the Township.

Dates and times for all meetings can be found on the Township website calendar.

Grant Awards!

The Township has actively been seeking funds through grant applications to facilitate cost savings and improvements throughout the Township. In 2009 the Township applied for a Transportation Enhancement Grant (TE) along with the Michigan Dept of Transportation to provide non-motorized transportation along M-43. This grant award will provide paved 8 foot marked shoulders along Grand River Ave from Meridian Rd to Zimmer Rd on both the North and South sides to increase safe transportation for non-motorized transportation through the Township and to the park. Work is scheduled to take place in 2010. The second was for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. This grant will provide funding to make energy efficient updates to the Township Hall, provide workshops for Township residents, conduct a light bulb exchange for residents, consulting fees for planning and promote use of public transportation within the Township. The Board is excited about the work ahead and look forward to expanded opportunities to the residents!



WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP

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www.williamstowntownship.com

YOUR TOWNSHIP BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

Supervisor– Mickey Martin	martinm@williamstowntownship.com
Clerk– Ernie Gaffner	gaffnere@williamstowntownship.com
Treasurer– Janet Eyster	eysterj@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee– Robert Hayes	hayesr@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee– Frans Wilbrink	wilbrinkf@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee- Rick Williams	williamsr@williamstowntownship.com
Trustee-Martin Wright	wrightm@williamstowntownship.com

Who does what at the Township:

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Deputy Clerk - Shirley Mitchell
Deputy Treasurer- Lori Hurst

HIRED STAFF

Building Inspector– Robert Kehoe
Code Enforcer– Robert Kehoe
Supervisor Asst. - Michelle Morse
Sexton/Maintenance- Mark Tabor
Caretaker– Mac Donnelly
Cemetery Advisor—Benjamin Moline
Webmaster- Wendell Proudfoot
Planning Asst.- Wanda Bloomquist

PLANNING COMMISSION

Michael Fielek- Chair
Rex LaMore- Vice Chair
Gerald Eidt- Secy
Wanda Bloomquist
Ronald Cook
Dali Giese
Rod Imhoff
Ger Schultink
Martin Wright– Twp. Board Rep.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Bill Bailey
Dan Demitroff– Red Cedar Rec Rep.
Wanda Bloomquist-- Twp. Board Rep.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

John McLaughlin- Chair
Richard Kill
Terry Monahan
Mickey Martin- Twp. Board Rep.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Tom Johnson– Chair
Rutgar Hoag
Steve Eyke
Gloria VanDusen
Ann Campbell
Dan Goodnoe
Jo Ann Goodnoe
Joan Wright
Frans Wilbrink- Twp. Board Rep.

COMPENSATION COMMISSION

Wilbur McNinch- Chair
Bob Lombardini
Andy Sheets
Sally Martin Stewart

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Greg Lammers– Chair
Andy Andersen- Member at Large
Scott VanAllsburg—Williamston City Rep.
Mickey Martin– Twp. Board Rep.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Gerald Eidt
Kurt Guter
Edward Timm

BOARD OF APPEALS

Michael Fielek- Chair
Dan Kraft
Kurt Guter
Mark Miller
Mickey Martin- Supervisor

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Aage Jensen
Stephan Patoprsty
Mark Stevens

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

Marv Thomson, Chair
Norma Johnston
Ivonne Key
Kurt Guter
Nancy Williams
Rick Williams-Twp. Board Rep

NIESA REPRESENTATIVES

Ronald Wiegandt- Alternate Twp. Rep.
Frans Wilbrink- Twp. Board Rep.

ALSO REPRESENTING OUR TOWNSHIP:

United States Senator	Carl Levin (D)	web: levin.senate.gov	377-1508
United States Senator	Debbie Stabenow (D)	web: stabenow.senate.gov	203-1760
United States Representative (Dist 8)	Mike Rogers (R)	web: www.mikerogers.house.gov	702-8000
Michigan State Senator (Dist 23)	Gretchen Whitmer (D)	e-mail: sengwhitmer@senate.michigan.gov	373-1734
Michigan State Rep. (Dist 67)	Barb Byrum (D)	e-mail: barbbyrum@house.mi.gov	373-0587
Michigan State Rep. (Dist 69)	Mark Meadows (D)	e-mail: markmeadows@house.mi.gov	373-1786
Ingham County Comm. (Dist 13)	Randy Schafer (R)	e-mail: commschafer@aol.com	655-1325